

L'Enregistrement Electroencéphalographique, 2nd edition. By M. L. Hector. (Pp. 171; illustrated; F.140.) Masson: Paris. 1976.

This is the second edition of a justifiably popular French book providing an excellent basis for anyone wanting to learn exactly how to record reliable and useful EEGs. The many practical details that lead to the valuable clinical contribution of the first class EEG technician are described with clarity and wisdom. This book complements Cooper, Osselton, and Shaw's *EEG Technology* which gives greater emphasis to the scientific background.

Half the book is devoted to pithy accounts of all aspects of conduct of routine examinations and details of special procedures necessary, for example, in epilepsy, neurosurgical patients, monitoring during open heart surgery, the intensive care unit, premature babies, all-night sleep recordings, telemetry, and evoked potentials. A useful chapter describes artefacts systematically with details of cause, differential diagnosis, and cure. Eighty-five well reproduced and annotated plates of tracings follow, illustrating important technical points in demonstration of normality and pathological states. There is a proper emphasis on the value of polygraphic recording. One regrets the lack of balance between bipolar and reference recordings, and of details for further basic reading. Anglo-Saxon readers may have difficulty in correct interpretation of phrases like 'parasites extérieures'; an English translation would be useful.

PAMELA F. PRIOR

Thailand, Bombay, Philippines, Taiwan, Indonesia, and Korea. Multiple sclerosis does occur in Asia but rarely. The clinical picture is slightly different from the disease in the west. Twenty-three per cent of Asian cases had tonic spasms; the Devic type of the disease is much more common, and pathologically necrotic lesions in the optic nerves and spinal cord are seen more frequently than in western series.

Unfortunately the HL-A antigens are available only for Japan; HL-A 3 was found in none of 20 Japanese MS cases, in one in 200 non-MS Japanese compared with 23% in Caucasians. HL-A7 was found in 10%, 15%, and 23% respectively.

There are other chapters of considerable interest. Kurland on 'Is the population pattern compatible with a genetic determinant?'—'Comparative epidemiological studies of MS in South Africa and Japan' by Bird and Satoyoshi—'Eales disease' by Singhal and Dastur—various chapters on pathology and aetiology—'Viral studies and epidemiology' by Brody—'Experimental allergic encephalomyelitis as an experimental model' by Nagai, and 'Studies on the myelination inhibiting factor in EAE and human diseases' by Yonezawa, Saido, and Hasegawa.

This book should be of great interest to anyone working on the problem of multiple sclerosis. An index would have added to its value.

J. H. D. MILLAR

Treatment of Pain By H. C. Voris and W. W. Whisler. (Pp. 161; illustrated; \$14.00.) Charles C. Thomas: Springfield, Illinois. 1975.

It is extraordinary how often books dealing with this subject are merely technical manuals which give the reader the impression that those who use surgical techniques approach a patient much as a motor mechanic approaches a faulty car. The book under review consists of a series of papers presented at a symposium dealing with the treatment of chronic intractable pain, and does not falter from this line of approach. It follows the usual routine of dealing briefly with anatomical and physiological considerations, and omits

any mention of psychological factors which are crucial in a worthwhile assessment of chronic pain problems. It then plunges directly into papers on surgical techniques, all of which have already been written and talked about many times before. Most of the papers are short with an anecdotal style and, regrettably, critical evaluation of selection criteria and outcome measures is not much in evidence. There is one paper on the use of psychotropic drugs and the treatment of chronic pain, one on hypnosis, and one on acupuncture, but they are of poor quality. At \$14.00 this book is very poor value for money and not recommended.

M. R. BOND

Assessment and Management of Developmental Changes in Children By M. L. Erickson. (Pp. 268; illustrated; £6.95.) C. V. Moseley: St. Louis. 1976.

I found this book both interesting and disturbing. Essentially it is a rather verbose account of developmental and behavioural assessment and management of young children. 'Assessment' as distinct from 'diagnosis' is the keystone of recently introduced paediatric assessment centres in the United Kingdom. It purports to provide an operational description of locomotor, social, and language development in very young children with an analysis of their psychosocial milieu, in the belief that timely intervention will alleviate handicap, and assuage parental anxiety. Whereas in the UK the trend has been to encourage hybrid paediatricians to organise and mediate these activities, Mrs Erickson's book clearly implies that much of this can be undertaken by specially trained graduate nurses of whom the author is apparently a good example. Moreover, she anticipates systematic study of all infants and children, not only those who present with developmental and behavioural problems. This, of course, is also a feature of the work of health visitors and paediatric nurses here, but differs both in its intimate intensity, and in its emphasis on behaviour modification. My unhappiness at 'anticipatory intervention' to forestall 'undesirable behaviours' is because this may disguise

Multiple Sclerosis in Asia Edited by Yoshigoro Kuroiwa. (Pp. 275; price not stated.) University Park Press: Baltimore, London, and Tokyo. 1976.

This is the report of the Asian Multiple Sclerosis Workshop held in March 1975 in Tokyo. Some of the chapters have been published elsewhere but it is valuable to have this information under one cover and the comments of people interested in multiple sclerosis (MS).

Evidence is available from Japan,

a demand for conformity which is basically intolerant and totalitarian. Fortunately, it appears that as described here (most check-lists contain at least 30 items, and some over 80) the whole exercise of assessment and behaviour modification is so time-consuming that the dangers of 1984 are unlikely to be realised on a large scale.

JOHN WILSON

Basic Psychiatry By Myre Sim and E. G. Gordon. (Pp. 306; £3.75.) Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1976.

That this book is in its third edition in eight years is a sombre reflection on the presumed orientation of the readers to whom it is directed ('medical students, nurses, occupational therapists, social workers, psychologists etc'), and on examination systems which perpetuate an unreflecting regurgitation of facts. It is written in the form of outmoded examination-style questions, some of which make questionable implicit assumptions ('What are the constituents (*sic*) of the unconscious?' p. 22), and dogmatic, generally uncritical, and sometimes misleading answers which give little guidance to the inexperienced reader in forming a balanced opinion on controversial topics.

Though some bias is inevitable, it should be minimal in a basic text, especially if no references are given. In this book, a bias in favour of a crudely presented, psychoanalytically-oriented psychopathology extends to dismissing Jaspers' 'Psychopathology' as 'all oversimplified' (p. 43), to the omission of Schneider's concept of first rank symptoms in the section on schizophrenia, and to the condensation of Durkheim's contribution to the literature on suicide to six words (p. 162).

Some sections are more carefully written—for example, alcoholism and some parts of the large organic and psychosomatic chapters—and the book is well produced as would be expected from this publisher. In view of the negative loading, however, and the quality of some of the competitors in the paperback field, the book cannot be recommended.

A. C. MACFIE

Biological Foundations of Psychiatry Volume 1. Edited by R. G. Grenell and S. Gabay. (Pp. xxiv+589; illustrated; \$42.00.) Raven Press: New York. 1976.

This is the first of two volumes published under the auspices of The Society of Biological Psychiatry, with the aim of providing authoritative reviews of a series of biological topics of particular importance for psychiatry. This volume deals with neurophysiological topics (including excellent accounts of hemispheric specialisation by David Galin and of evoked potentials by Charles Shagass), with drive and motivation (including an important chapter by James Olds), and with levels of consciousness. The contributions are of high quality and this volume will be a valuable acquisition to any neurological or psychiatric library.

J. L. GIBBONS

Biological Foundations of Psychiatry Volume 2. Edited by R. G. Grenell and S. Gabay. (Pp. xviii+454; illustrated; \$42.00.) Raven Press: New York. 1976.

The second volume of this two-volume set contains further detailed reviews of biological topics important for psychiatry. The authors are experienced research workers, and the reviews are, in general, extensive and scholarly. There are four main themes in this volume: Biochemical Correlates of Behaviour; Psychopharmacology; Biology of Psychosomatic Illness; Integration. There are, for example, lucid accounts of the genetics of schizophrenia and of affective psychosis, as well as of the biochemistry of these two disorders. The editors admit that they have been selective in their choice of topics, but they have chosen well. Like the first volume, the second is beautifully produced and well worth a place on a library shelf.

J. L. GIBBONS

Clinical Psychiatry By James Willis. (Pp. 472; illustrated; £10.50.) Blackwell: Oxford. 1976.

Dr. Willis is the author of the psychiatric text in the *Lecture Notes* series. His little book is popular with medical students, not only because it is relatively inexpensive. Now, with the same

publisher, Dr. Willis has written a larger and inevitably much more expensive textbook of clinical psychiatry. Although the author's preface does not tell us what readership he had in mind, the blurb says that it is 'particularly useful to doctors studying for the MRC Psych. examination'.

The book certainly gives the wide coverage of adult clinical psychiatry that Dr. Willis tells us he intended. There are clear accounts of the concept of psychiatric illness, of general psychopathology, and of the main clinical syndromes. Recent research findings are clearly described, without any personal bias being allowed to intrude. Epidemiology gets much more consideration than in most short texts. The book is generally well-written in an interesting and sometimes entertaining style that is free from both pomposity and delusions of omniscience.

Nevertheless, the book is only adequate for the MRC Psych. candidate as an introduction to psychiatry. Clinical descriptions are rather short and sometimes oversimplified and treatment is very briefly discussed. An MRC Psych. candidate would be expected to know that behaviour therapy is sometimes effective in obsessional neurosis, but he would not learn that from this book.

J. L. GIBBONS

Modern Synopsis of Psychiatry II Edited by A. M. Freedman, H. I. Kaplan, and B. J. Sadock. (Pp. xlx+1366; illustrated; price not stated.) Williams and Wilkins: Baltimore. 1976.

This large book, with more than 1300 pages, is a shortened and modified version of a much larger two-volume work with more than 2500 pages and well over 200 authors, some of them very eminent indeed. The larger work has been criticised for being too comprehensive, for containing too much irrelevant material. The synopsis suffers from the same defect, if to a lesser degree, and it is unfortunate that the editors were not more ruthless in deleting fringe material. The book has been produced with medical students in mind. Will they not be put off by its length? Should they be expected to read